

Chadron Public Library  
507 Bordeaux St.  
Chadron, NE 69337

## Book Club Evaluation

### Introduction

Chadron Public Library Book Club was founded in 2007. Members of the club meet every third Saturday each month at 2:30 p.m. to discuss a title. Each month a different member of the club leads the discussion. Walk-ins are more than welcome. However, they must have read the book to take part in the discussion. Titles are chosen democratically once a year.

During the meeting refreshments are served. While Chadron Public Library provides tea and pop-corn, members often provide unexpected and delicious treats. The atmosphere is always friendly and relaxed. The discussions can be lively and animated, however, every idea and opinion is respected and listened to.

A volunteer, Dorreene Butterfield, has created a beautiful web site for the club at:  
<http://www.chadronreadinggroup.com/>

The web site contains a latest news section, information about the club and an address for questions and comments.

Every book read is listed with a little comment. We think that this may be useful for other groups and libraries that would like to borrow our reading kits. We do not charge for the use of our kits. They contain four copies of each title and a study guide. We ask that our material be returned in good order and condition.

## Club Rules

The rules of the Club were established during the first meeting in February 2007. They are basic and aim at regulating the discussion without squelching freedom of expression.

They are:

The selected book must have been read to participate in the discussion.

If a person has not read the book he/she can be still part of the meeting, as a listener.

Every opinion has its own merit and value. Respect the opinions of others.

Take from the meeting what you liked, leave what you did not.

Do not monopolize the conversation.

Take turns. Avoid interrupting the person who is talking.

### Attendance

Until FY 2009-2010 attendance was included in Patrons Programs and not specifically counted.

### Book Club Attendance

FY 2009-2010

September 2009 8

October 7

November 6

December 5

January 2010 7

February 5

March 7

April 6

May 7

June 2

July 5

August 9

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Total 74

## Survey

In order to evaluate the Book Club efficacy and effectiveness we sent a survey to the people that are or have participated in the meetings. We sent 10 flyers by e-mail and received 7 answers.

### First Question:

How long have you been attending the Club Meetings?

3 recipients answered: 3 years

1 recipient answered: several

1 recipient answered: 2 years

1 recipient answered: 16 months

1 recipient answered: attended twice

### Second Question:

How did you learn about the Book Club?

4 answered: from a member

3 answered: from the librarian

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Question:

Would you recommend it to a friend?

7 answered: yes

4<sup>th</sup> Question:

What do you like about the Book Club?

The answers were:

Free discussion

Good book selection

Interesting discussions

Bring up thing that I hadn't thought about

Learn others' opinions

Interact with people

Discussion and reading

Hearing many different views

Reading books I would have not picked out on my own

Friendships made

Good selections

5<sup>th</sup> Question:

What don't you like about the Book Club?

5 answered: don't change anything

1 answered: sometimes I have difficulties understanding

1 answered: off topic divergence

6<sup>th</sup> Question:

What would you like to change?

4 answered: nothing

1 answered: more frequent meetings

1 answered: make sure that one or two people do not monopolize the discussion.

1 answered: more copies available.

7<sup>th</sup> Question:

What features would you like to see added to the Club?

1 answered: it is fine the way it is

3 answered: blank

3 answered: movie to see, movie club, movie discussion

Suggestions:

1 film, club that discusses movie and books.

1 movie

1 continue as it is

3 blank

## Evaluation

Over all it seems that those who attend the Book Club enjoy it. It is interesting to note that the members all learned of the existence of the Club from another person. It is significant, considering that the club is advertised with a bulletin board close to the check-in area, that it is periodically advertised over the internet and on the library web-site. It has also been advertised on the news paper and on radio.

Some of the members feel that one or two tend to monopolize the discussion. A reminder of the Club rules might help to solve the problem.

Another important point is that some of the club members seem to enjoy the interaction with other people and learning about others' opinions.

It is also important to note that some members desire to see a link of some sort between books and films made out of the books read. Others, would like to see more copies available immediately. The Library provides 4 copies and then offer interlibrary loans. Perhaps, we will have to consider making interlibrary loans prior to the beginning of the cycle, each month.

While the average attendance is of 5-6 people each month, in the month of August we had 9 participants. The yearly total is 74. We believe that this is a good size number for a small library. We hope to reach more people by preparing a new advertising campaign and exploring the book-movie connection.

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Book Club Survey

How long have you been attending the Book Club meetings?-----

How did you learn about the Book Club ?-----

Would you recommend it to a friend?-----

What do you like about the Reading Club?-----

What don't you like about the Reading Club?-----

What would you like to change?-----

What features would you like to see added to the Club?-----

Suggestions:-----

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